

1 Claims

- 2 1. A method of promoting tissue repair
3 comprising the step of administering a
4 compound which modulates the function of
5 beta 1 integrin to a tissue in need of
6 repair.
7
- 8 2. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the
9 compound modulates the metalloproteinase
10 (MMP) balance.
11
- 12 3. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the
13 compound modulates apoptosis.
14
- 15 4. The method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the
16 modulation of the apoptotic activity has a
17 resultant modulation in the
18 metalloproteinase (MMP) balance.
19
- 20 5. An assay method for identifying compounds
21 suitable for use in tissue repair, said
22 assay comprising the steps of:
23 - providing a candidate compound,
24 - bringing the candidate compound into contact
25 with beta 1 integrin,
26 - determining the presence or absence of
27 modulation of beta 1 integrin activity by
28 the candidate compound,

1 wherein modulation of beta 1 integrin activity
2 is indicative of utility of that compound in
3 tissue repair.

4

5 6. A method of claim 5 wherein modulation of
6 beta 1 integrin activity is assessed by
7 monitoring variance in the MMP level.

8

9 7. A method of claim 5 or 6 wherein modulation
10 of beta 1 integrin activity is assessed by
11 the resulting modulation on apoptosis.

12

13 8. A method of any one of the preceding claims
14 wherein the compound modulates the function
15 of beta 1 integrin, wherein modulation
16 includes a change in the function of, or the
17 shedding of beta 1 integrin.

18

19 9. A method of any one of the preceding claims
20 wherein the compound binds the beta 1
21 integrin molecule in the region of amino
22 acid residues 82 to 87 of the sequence of
23 the mature beta 1 integrin molecule.

24

25 10. A method of any one of the preceding claims
26 wherein the compound binds the amino acid
27 sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, TAEKLLK.

28

- 1 11. A method as claimed in any one of the
2 preceding claims wherein the compound is a
3 synthetic peptide.
4
- 5 12. A method as claimed in any one of the
6 preceding claims wherein the compound is an
7 antibody.
8
- 9 13. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 6
10 to 9 wherein the compound is a humanised or
11 chimaeric antibody.
12
- 13 14. Use of a compound which binds to the beta 1
14 integrin in the preparation of a medicament
15 for the treatment of injured tissue.
16
- 17 15. Use of a compound according to claim 12,
18 wherein the compound is an antibody.
19
- 20 16. Use of a compound according to claim 13,
21 wherein the antibody is the monoclonal
22 antibody produced by the commercial clone
23 JB1a.
24
- 25 17. A compound identified by the method of claim
26 5.
27
- 28 18. A pharmaceutical composition for use in
29 tissue repair wherein the composition

1 includes as an active ingredient, a compound
2 which modifies the function of beta 1
3 integrin.